



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Inspiration Horse Excavation (05/06-CD-19)

LOCATION: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

COUNTY: San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Excavation and recovery of vertebrate fossils, identified as a fully articulated posterior thoracic, lumbar and sacral vertebrae, and pelvic girdle of an extinct horse. Excavation is necessary for the protection and conservation of these very significant fossil specimen. The fossils are exposed in the wall of an actively eroding badlands wash, and are adjacent to a well traveled dirt road, which could result in damage by the public. Excavation of the fossils will require removal of several cubic meters of sedimentary deposits that directly overlie the specimens. All excavated material will be placed back in the excavation once the fossils have been removed. The fossil specimens will be conserved and stored at the CA DPR's Stout Research Center. No sensitive biological or archeological resources would be impacted by this project.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Colorado Desert District

EXEMPT STATUS:

- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section)
☒ Categorical Exemption
Class: 4 & 6 Section: 15304 and 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

- No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated.
- Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.
- Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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Michael Wells
District Superintendent
Colorado Desert District

DATE